WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A network-based system for centrally sampling distributed
2   multimedia, the system comprising:
3   a plurality of distributed multimedia source computers;
4   a multimedia warehouse configured to receive and archive multimedia
5   files uploaded from the plurality of distributed multimedia source computers; and
6   at least one multimedia sampling computer configured to download
7   one or more multimedia files archived in the multimedia warehouse and play the
8   downloaded multimedia file(s) in synchronization with a project file.

1   2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia warehouse
2   comprises a network server computer system in operable communication with at least
3   one database.

1   3.   The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia files are selected
2   from a group consisting of audio files, video files, combined audio and video files
3   and picture files.

1   4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the project file is selected from
2   a group consisting of audio files, video files, combined audio and video files and
3   picture files.

1   5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one multimedia
2   sampling computer is additionally configured to search the multimedia warehouse for
3   multimedia files that best-match user-defined search criteria.

1   6.   The system of claim 5 wherein the search criteria comprise file
2   type, file format, composition name, company name, composer name, project name,
3   tempo and description.

1   7.   The system of claim 6 wherein tempo is defined by a tap tempo
2   calculator peripheral device operably connected to the at least one multimedia
3   sampling computer.

1   8.   The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one multimedia
2   sampling computer is additionally configured to edit playback attributes of the
3   downloaded multimedia file(s).

1   9.   The system of claim 1 wherein the distributed multimedia
2   source computers, the multimedia warehouse and the multimedia sampling
3   computer(s) are configured to host preview, purchasing, or licensing of multimedia
4   files.

1   10.   The system of claim 1 wherein the distributed multimedia
2   source computers, the multimedia warehouse and the multimedia sampling
3   computer(s) are configured to host online communication between users of the
4   multimedia source computers and users of the multimedia sampling computer(s).

1   11.   The system of claim 1 wherein the distributed multimedia
2   source computers, the multimedia warehouse and the multimedia sampling
3   computer(s) are configured to monitor version control for multimedia file revisions.

1   12.   The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia sampling
2   computer has an e-mail system for inviting selected multimedia source computers to
3   have access to the project file.

1   13.   The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia warehouse has
2   a local server that queries a web server and retrieves new multimedia files for the
3   multimedia warehouse, the sampling computer having an application that
4   automatically associates an identified user with the local server, the sampling
5   computer upon recognizing the identified user and determining that the local server
6   is available, selects files from the local server, the sampling computer upon

7   recognizing the identified user and determining that the local server is not available,

8   obtains files from a web server.

1   14.   A network-based method for marketing multimedia, the

2   method comprising:

3   receiving multimedia files from a plurality of distributed multimedia

4   providers into an online multimedia warehouse;

5   providing the multimedia files within the online multimedia warehouse

6   to distributed multimedia consumers for download wherein the multimedia consumers

7   sample downloaded multimedia files in synchronization with a project file; and

8   selling or licensing the downloaded multimedia file to the multimedia

9   consumer.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 wherein the multimedia files are

2   selected from a group consisting of audio files, video files, combined audio and video

3   files and picture files.

1   16.   The method of claim 14 wherein the project file is selected

2   from a group consisting of audio files, video files, combined audio and video files

3   and picture files.

1   17.   The method of claim 14 additionally comprising searching the

2   multimedia warehouse for multimedia files that best-match user-defined search

3   criteria.

1   18.   The method of claim 14 additionally comprising editing

2   playback attributes of the downloaded multimedia files.

1   19.   The method of claim 14 additionally comprising presenting a

2   multimedia consumer's request for a custom multimedia file to a multimedia

3   provider.

1   20.   The method of claim 19 additionally comprising accepting or
2 rejecting the multimedia consumer's request for the custom multimedia file.

1   21.   The method of claim 14 additionally comprising presenting a
2 multimedia consumer's request for a revision to a multimedia file to a multimedia
3 provider.

1   22.   A computer-readable storage medium containing computer
2 executable code for instructing one or more computers to:
3   receive input defining multimedia file search criteria;
4   search one or more databases for multimedia files that best-match the
5 search criteria;
6   present output containing a selectable listing of the multimedia files
7 that best-match the search criteria to a user; and
8   receive user input selecting one or more of the presented multimedia
9 files; and
10   present output playing the selected multimedia file(s) in
11 synchronization with a project file.

1   23.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein
2 the computer executable code additionally instructs the one or more computers to
3 receive user input selecting one or more multimedia files to purchase or license.

1   24.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein
2 the computer executable code additionally instructs the one or more computers to edit
3 playback attributes of the selected multimedia file(s).